

## Oroville Union High School District trustees hear pleas to save high school programs

By BARBARA ARRIGONI - Staff Writer

Posted: 05/19/2010 10:22:24 PM PDT

OROVILLE -- Teachers, parents and other citizens voiced worries to the Oroville Union High School District board of trustees Wednesday, pleading to save several programs from the district's budget ax: counselors, Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) and district funding for extracurricular activities and band.

The district has to cut a \$1.3 million deficit for the 2010-11 school year.

About 40 people showed up for the public hearing on a list of 23 items recommended by the district budget advisory committee and a board committee totaling nearly \$1.8 million in various program cuts.

The list calls for possible elimination of all seven counselors, to save \$538,000, the ROTC program, summer school, the swim team, the principal of adult education, financial support of extracurricular activities and other items.

The budget committee also recommended reducing band mileage at a savings of \$9,800 and charging the Associated Student Body for clerical support, a \$146,000 savings. Eliminating support of after-school activities could save \$301,000.

Fourteen people spoke mostly on behalf of band, counselors and ROTC.

Las Plumas teacher and adviser Camille Upton pointed out that eliminating financial support of extracurricular activities would eliminate one of the most important aspects of attending school, and could lead to decreased attendance and loss of money. She also pointed out that for students, those activities are important to colleges, which

want students who are well-rounded. She said the after-school activities are also important because those keep kids out of trouble.

"Extracurricular activities are an important part of high school that benefits the community and students," Upton said.

She also said charging the Associated Student Body would cripple the organization.

Oroville High School teacher Carol Anderson was one of several people who spoke on behalf of counselors.

"You can cut my stipend for advising, it's not going to hurt the school," Anderson said. "But cutting counselors? I can't even picture how we would (function) without our counselors."

Anderson said counselors are the core of the school programs. She was echoed by others who pointed out to the trustees that counselors are not only important for scheduling students and classes, but in preparing students for their options after leaving high school.

Several people talked about the importance of the Las Plumas-Oroville Alliance Band, which was combined several years ago during another round of budget cuts. Parent Toby Erickson said the band

Advertisement

**Help people in need.**  
Donate your car, boat or RV  
**Free Towing ■ Tax Deductible**

**FREE**  
3 day vacation to over  
80 destinations.

Call Toll-Free  
**1-877-225-9384**



 **Heritage**  
for the **Blind**

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

has steadily been cut during the past 12 years.

Because the two school bands were combined, the alliance band now has to travel farther to compete with larger schools. Most events are in the Bay Area.

While Erickson emphasized the burden more cuts to the band would have on parents already pushing to keep it going, others talked about how being in band motivates their children to attend school. They also pointed out that the band trips are the only time some students have ever been outside of Oroville.

Former Naval commander and current Junior ROTC instructor David Bruhn offered to reduce the contracted 12-month commitment for its instructors to 10 months, and noted that the ROTC is an important program that teaches students discipline and leadership.

Another speaker noted that the ROTC program teaches students the kinds of things that can't be learned in a classroom, such as how to get along with others.

Other people also asked the board not to cut the Prospect High day-care program, saying it not only supports students with children to keep at their studies, but also teaches them how to parent.

The trustees mostly listened and asked a few technical questions after the public hearing ended.

After suggesting the list include cutting adult education to the bare bones, trustee Craig Domeyer also asked if Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's mid-May budget proposals would possibly change the amount the district has to cut.

District business official Susan Watts answered that the state budget situation is about the same as it was last January.

"It will not change our \$1.3 million deficit," Watts said.

District Superintendent Oran Roberts will present a final list of proposed budget cuts to the board June 2 for approval.

Staff writer Barbara Arrigoni can be reached at [barrigoni@orovillemr.com](mailto:barrigoni@orovillemr.com) or 533-3136.

## Advertisement

<h1>Eat Great, Lose Weight!</h1> <p>© 2009 eDiets.com, Inc. All rights reserved. epicurious is a TM of Conde Nast Digital. Redbook is a TM of Hearst Communication, Inc.</p>		<p>Call <b>1-888-378-3151</b> and get a <b>FREE</b> week of meals plus a <b>BONUS \$25 gift!</b></p>
	<p>eDiets <b>fresh prepared</b> meal delivery</p>	<p>Rated #1 best-tasting by <a href="http://epicurious.com">epicurious.com</a> "Best bang for your buck!" - Redbook</p>